Reversible Battle Dress Uniform (BDU)

Overview:

Research and development efforts in the area of textile printing now allow successful printing on both sides of the fabric without colors bleeding through.

Two fabrics have been successfully produced: 50/50 Nylon/Cotton twill for temperate environments and a 50/50 Nylon/Cotton ripstop poplin for hot weather environments. Possible combinations of front & back print include Woodland/Desert, Woodland/Urban, Desert/Urban, and any print with Arctic Snow Camouflage.

Benefits of reversible BDUs include:

- Decreased deployment time;
- Flexibility in adapting to changes in mission scenario, e.g. airdrop into a desert environment and subsequent maneuvers in a mountainous/woodland terrain;
- Provide equivalent comfort to standard BDUs;
- Reduced burden on logistics system, and reduced logistics costs;
- Reduction in number of items issued to soldier.

Status:

Design modifications include pass-through pockets, double pocket flaps, hinged front fly, double buttons on coat and trousers, and concealed labels. Prototype coat and trousers weigh a total of 5.5 ounces (5% more than current hot weather BDUs). Alternate construction methods are being explored to reduce weight. Other items for potential reversibility are boonie hat, helmet and pack covers. Reversible BDU test items have been produced and tested by the U.S. Marine Corps.

Point Of Contact:

Individual Protection Liaison
COMM: (508) 233-6481, DSN: 256-6481
E-MAIL: amssb-rip@natick.army.mil

Latest Version

U.S. Army
Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

Soldier Systems Center
Kansas Street
Natick, Massachusetts
01760
www.sbccom.army.mil

rev 11-26-01